

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAI-01 INRE-00

ACDA-19 AEC-11 IO-12 OIC-04 OMB-01 H-02 RSR-01 /143 W
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O R 171928 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0602

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04560

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PERM

SUBJECT: MBFR- BRITISH POSITION ON AD HOC GROUP REPORT

REF: LONDON 4392

1. AT NAC APRIL 18 US WILL TAKE STRONG STAND AGAINST
REPORT OF AD HOC GOURP, ACCORDING TO TICKELL. INSTRUCTIONS
SENT TO PECK WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY
DIRECT PECK TO REITERATE BRITISH CONCERNS ALONG LINES
OF THOMSON' S STATEMENT IN AHG MEETING APRIL 12 (VIENNA

3035). KEY BRITISH OBJECTION, TICKELL STATED,
IS THAT SOVIET PROCEDURE PAPER IF ACCEPTED BY ALLIES
WILL GIVE EAST MAJOR POLITICAL CONCESSION AT OUTSET
OF VITALLY IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS. BRITISH BELIEVE
THAT AGREEING TO LIST HUNGARY AS SPECIAL PARTICIPANT
IS TANTAMOUNT TO MAKING IT A FLANK COUNTRY; THEY
IMPLY THEY HAVE NO CONFIDENCE THAT ONCE THAT HAS
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BEEN DONE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN NEGOTIATIONS TO REVERSE MATTERS AND INDUCE EAST TO AGREE THAT HUNGARY SHOULD BE DIRECT PARTICIPANT. TICKELL CONTINUED THAT IF PARA THREE OF SOVIET PROCEDURE PAPER WERE DROPPED UK COULD LIVE WITH REST OF PAPER. HOWEVER HE CONCEDED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE.

2. GIVEN THEIR DISLIKE OF PROCEDURES PAPER BRITISH WILL PROPOSE AT TOMORROW' S NAC THAT A VARIANT OF THEIR ALL NINETEEN FORMULA BE TRIED AS NEXT STEP IN VIENNA. THEY WILL SUGGEST THAT ALLIES MOVE TO WIND UP VIENNA TALKS QUICKLY BY SEEKING EASTERN AGREEMENT ON DATE AND PLACE OF NEGOTIATIONS,

PROCEDURES AND A GENERAL AGENDA, LEAVING FOR NEGOTIATIONS ISSUES LIKE PARTICIPATION. THIS, BRITISH BELIEVE, WOULD BE BEST WAY FOR ALLIES TO CUT THEIR LOSSES AND GET OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE IN VIENNA WITHOUT MAKING MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO THE OTHER SIDE. TICKELL THOUGHT THAT PRINCIPAL US OBJECTIVE IN EXPLORATORY TALKS WAS TO GET RUSSIANS PINNED DOWN ON DATE CERTAIN FOR OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND BRITISH ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET PROCEDURES PAPER WOULD DO EXACTLY THAT.

3. TICKELL WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON HOW HARD BRITISH WOULD FIGHT FOR THEIR ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET PAPER. HE SAID MERELY BRITISH WOULD WAIT AND SEE HOW THINGS GO IN NAC. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BRITISH WERE PRETTY WELL ISOLATED AMONG ALLIES ON HUNGARIAN ISSUE, BUT SHOWED NO DISCONFITURE.

4. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT IT IS HARD TO JUDGE HOW LONG BRITISH WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD OUT

AGAINST WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ALLIED CONSENSUS ON ACCEPTING SOVIET PROCEDURES PAPER. AS THEY HAVE MADE CLEAR ON NUMERIOUS OCCASIONS, THEY FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT LISTING HUNGARY NOW AS SPECIAL PARTICIPANT WITH WHATEVER COLLATERAL FORMULAE RESERVING WESTERN POSITION WOULD BE PSYCHOLOGICALLY DAMAGING TO WEST AT OUTSET OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.
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TICKELL UNDERScoreD THIS POINT BY THE CONTENTION THAT

THE YOGOSLAVS ARE CONCERNED AT PROSPECT THAT HUNGARY
WOULD NOT BE DIRECT PARTICIPANT.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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